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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5380
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0080
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1718
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0679
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 0876
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/W, INR/AA
BAGHDAD FOR DMCCULLOUGH

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NIGERIA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON USG PARTICIPATION
IN UNHRC AND DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 18282

11. (SBU) On February 27 Poloff delivered reftel demarche on USG participation in the UN Human Rights Council, and the USG's posture toward the Durban Review Conference, to Ambassador M.K. Ibrahim, Director of the Second United Nations Division at the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

12. (SBU) Ibrahim expressed pleasure that the U.S. would be engaging the HRC more than we have done in the recent past; he also said that Nigeria, being a very diverse country with a long history of sectarian strife, looked at "defamation" differently than the U.S. in a free speech/freedom of religion context. In Nigeria's view, he said, it was better at times to curtail the former to prevent violence generated by the inhibition of the latter. Post will relay to Department any further substantive comments but none are expected.
SANDERS